Date: December 18, 2008 Contact: Michelle Ganon

Communications Director

Phone: 619-533-4061

619-980-8429

For Immediate Release E-mail: mganon@sandiego.gov

Statement by Council President Ben Hueso on the Flooding of the Tijuana River Valley

"I have just returned from a visit to the Tijuana River Valley and want to acknowledge the efforts of our City's first responders to rescue and protect those who were impacted by flooding in that area. The San Diego Fire and Police Departments, together with The San Diego Lifeguard Service worked tirelessly to get people and animals out of harm's way after the recent storms. Though the rain has stopped and the waters are receding, it remains windy and cold in the area. The flooding may be the worst the area has seen in more than 10 years.

"The Tijuana River Valley is one of our City's most important environmental assets. The unhealthy bacteria levels in the water and uncontained trash and debris that currently floats freely is particularly harmful to the delicate balance of nature that supports the area's threatened and endangered wildlife, including birds, animals and plants.

"Our hearts go out to the residents, horse and ranch owners, and workers who have been affected by the flooding there; our gratitude is with all who are doing their best to help."